

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19-21, 24, 25, and 30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 15, 16, 21, and 30 are independent claims. Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 19, 20, 24, and 25 are dependent claims.

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19-21, 24, 25, and 30 were rejected in the final Office Action mailed September 24, 2003.

Amendments to claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25, and 30 are presented herein.

Claims 1, 6, 16, and 21 have been cancelled in this response. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In numbered paragraphs 2 and 3 on pages 2-4 of the September 24, 2003 final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19-21, 24, 25, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kageyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,638). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons presented below.

Independent claim 4 recites, as amended, "a plurality of image processing circuits, each of the image processing circuits applying an image process to the separate set of data read by a corresponding one of the video interfaces, wherein the image process applied by each of the image processing circuits is respectively one of a smoothing process, an intermediate tone process, a low-resolution process, a high-resolution process, a run-length decompression process, and a Lempel-Ziv (LZ) decompression process." Independent claims 9, 15, 19, 24, and 30 recite similar language.

It is the position of the applicants that the features of amended claims 4, 9, 15, 19, 24, and 30 are not disclosed by the Kageyama reference. Thus, it is submitted that independent claims 4, 9, 15, 19, 24, and 30 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Independent claim 5 recites, as amended, that "the plurality of separate sets of data stored in the image buffer are obtained by dividing the print data to be printed on one page into a plurality of bands, **each of the bands corresponding to one of the different types of data,**

and wherein the print data integration circuit **alternately selects the separate set of data read by each of the video interfaces and outputs the selected set of data to the output mechanism**" (emphasis added). Independent claims 10, 20, and 25 recite similar language.

The Examiner asserted in the September 24, 2003 Office Action that the features of claim 5 are disclosed by Kageyama at col. 5, lines 42-53. The cited portion of Kageyama states that each page is divided into a plurality of areas for the sake of drawing, the drawing processes for the respective areas are executed in parallel by separate processors, and print processes for respective page buffers having completed the drawing are concurrently executed with the drawing.

However, Kageyama does not disclose that a plurality of separate sets of data stored in an image buffer are obtained by dividing the print data to be printed on one page into a plurality of bands, that each of the bands corresponds to one of the different types of data, and that the separate set of data read by each of the video interfaces are alternately selected and output to the output mechanism.

Thus, it is submitted that independent claims 5, 10, 20, and 25 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Claims 1, 6, 16, and 21 have been cancelled in this response.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25, and 30 patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under § 102.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding rejections, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 09/138,378

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Finally, if there are any additional fees associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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